

Marine Safety Office St. Louis MEDIA ADVISORY

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Coast Guard to hold Public Meeting, Press Briefing on Maritime Security

ST. LOUIS – The U.S. Coast Guard will hold a public meeting to hear comments on specific elements of the recently passed Maritime Transportation Security Act (MTSA) as it relates to the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code as well as recent amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS). The meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 31, 2003, from noon until 6:00 p.m., at the Robert A. Young Federal Building, 1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, in the second-floor auditorium. The purpose of the meeting is to outline the requirements of specific pieces of the MTSA that are related to the ISPS Code and solicit public input that will be used in drafting regulations. Representatives from the Transportation Security Agency (TSA) and the Maritime Administration (MARAD) will be attending the meeting to address various issues in the MTSA. These meeting will include discussion on issues such as:

- Port Security Committees and Port Security Plans.
- Vessel Security Assessments and Plans.
- Vessel and Company Security Officers.
- Facility Security Assessments and Plans.
- Facility Security Officers

Rear Adm. Larry Hereth, Director of Port Security in the Marine Safety, Security and Environmental Protection Directorate at U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, D.C., and Cmdr. Eric Washburn, Commanding Officer of Marine Safety Office St. Louis and Captain of the Port, St. Louis, will be available to the media at 11:10 a.m. Friday, to provide information about the meeting.

The Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 contains several provisions intended to enhance America's maritime community against the threat of terrorism. Many of the requirements in the MTSA directly align with the international security requirements adopted this December during a Diplomatic Conference on Maritime Security at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) with broader application for domestic vessels and facilities. A Federal Register notice that further explains the requirements of MTSA, the SOLAS amendments and the ISPS Code as well as the type of information that Coast Guard is requesting comment on at these meetings also details the dates and locations of other scheduled public meetings. The Federal Register docket number is [USCG-2002-14069] and can be viewed on the internet at http://dms.dot.gov/.